III. Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-21, and 34 are pending and stand rejected. Reconsideration and further examination of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Detailed Description

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because Page 9, par. [0027], line 8 recites "secondary edge 254" when the reference numeral "254" was previously assigned to "groove 254". Therefore, the Paragraph [0027] has been amended to refer to the "secondary edge 256" and the Examiner's objection should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-21 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Johnston* (US 4,748,862) in view of *Cole et al.* (US 6,446,778).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Johnston* and *Cole et al.*, even if properly combinable, fail to disclose the elements of independent claims 1 and 15. Claims 1 and 15 both recite: that the inner surface is disposed about and configured to contact the output shaft, that the inner surface terminates at an end face of the pinion, that a plane defined by the end face is perpendicular with the end face, and that the inner surface and the end face cooperate to define a secondary edge. As stated by the Examiner, *Johnston* fails to disclose an inner surface and an end face intersecting to define a secondary edge.

Furthermore, *Cole et al.* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Johnston* because the inner surface of the bushing 44 and the end face of the bushing 44 are not perpendicular with each other so as to define a secondary edge. More specifically, the inner surface and the end face of the bushing 44 are connected by a flared portion having an increasing diameter. The flared portion, which is labeled below in "Figure A - Applicant's Marked-up Figure from the *Cole et al.* Reference" is clearly visible in Figure 2 of *Cole et al.* For example, the curved nature of the debris

channels 84 indicates that the bushing 44 has a flared inner diameter r ear the end face thereof. As another example, the dotted lines extending between the debris channels 84 further indicate this surface being curved.

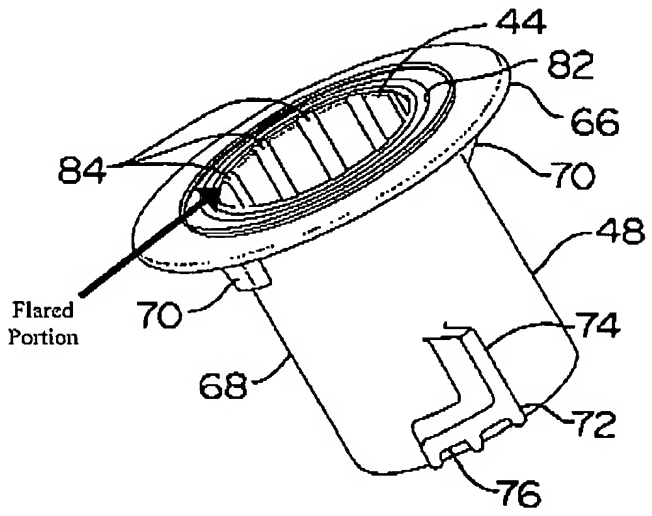

Figure A – Applicant's Marked-up Figure from the *Cole et al.* Reference

For the above reasons, claims 1 and 15 are not anticipated by the combination of *Johnston* and *Cole et al.*

The Examiner states that Figure 2 of *Johnston* discloses the elements of claim 7. However, claim 7 recites that the primary edge is arcuately formed along the inner surface of the pinion and *Johnston* fails to disclose an arcuately formed primary edge. Rather, *Johnston* discloses a groove 20 defined by a pair of linear edges. (*Johnston*, col. 2, lines 6-18, Figure 2). Although the groove 20 may have an arcuate cross-section, the edge defined by the groove is not arcuate. Rather, it is straight parallel to the axis of the shaft. Therefore, the elements of cla m 7 are not anticipated by Figure 2 in *Johnston*. Additionally, claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for the reasons provided above.

Claims 2-7 and 9-14 depend on claim 1, and claims 16, 17, 19-21, and 34 depend on amended claim 15. Thus, claims 1-7, 9-17, 19,-21, and 34 are also allowable for the reasons provided above.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone number (734) 302-6000, if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eric J. Sosenko (Reg. No. 34,440)
Attorney for Applicants